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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE WORK OF ITS SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 1990

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held a special session at United Nations Headquarters on 6 and 7 September 1990. The Chairman of the Executive Board was Mrs. Lisbet Palme (Sweden) and the Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance was Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada).

2. The agenda of the 1990 special session, as adopted, is contained in document E/ICEF/1990/15. The list of documents issued in connection with the session is contained in document E/ICEF/1990/INF/1/Rev.1. The list of participants is contained in document E/ICEF/1990/CRP.34. The Committee on Administration and Finance, sitting as a committee of the whole, met on 6 and 7 September 1990 (for the report of the Committee, see the annex to the present document). The Programme Committee did not meet.

II. PLENARY MEETINGS

A. Opening meeting: introductory remarks and presentations

3. The Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board welcomed delegations to the special session and outlined the order of business. Elaborating briefly on item 3 of the provisional agenda, the Chairman said that the deliberations on the progress report on the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1990/16 and Corr.1) and the drafts of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action (E/ICEF/1990/L.20 and annexes I and II, respectively) would follow presentations by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and Co-Chairman of the Summit Planning Committee, a representative of the Chairman of the Summit Format Working Group, and the Chairman of the Working Group on the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action.

4. The Chairman of the Executive Board noted that the revised budget estimates for the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16) had been finalized only shortly before the special session and explained that that was due, in large part, to an unexpected increase in the level of participation at the Summit, which had necessitated extensive budgetary recalculations by the United Nations. (For a detailed discussion of the revised budget estimates, see the report of the Committee on Administration and Finance contained in the annex to the present document.)

5. Before the adoption of the agenda, one delegation introduced and circulated to Board members a draft proposal on a report on family planning, which would be discussed under agenda item 6, Other business.

6. After the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman of the Executive Board expressed optimism about the lessening of super-Power tensions and the spread of democracy, but also stressed that war, violence, apartheid and racism, poverty, environmental degradation and the growing menace of drug addiction continued to

threaten children. The Chairman noted that the World Summit for Children presented a rare opportunity to accelerate mobilization and progress on behalf of children because the attention of both world leaders and the world public via the media would be focused on the ideas discussed at the Summit. It was hoped that the Summit would have the fullest impact possible and that the Declaration and the Plan of Action would become instruments capable of forging a better future for children.

7. The Chairman pointed to the rapid entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as an important fruition of Summit ideals. The concept that child survival, protection and development should have first call on society's resources had yet to be accepted by the world community, however, and was a goal towards which the world must continue to strive. The Chairman acknowledged the effort that had gone into preparations for the Summit to that point and concluded with the assurance that the Executive Board would review the situation - and national contributions - in the light of what had been achieved. She expressed the resolve of the Board to undertake assiduously the duties associated with the responsibilities and potential of the Summit, while keeping the Summit's position clearly fixed in the broader framework of future goals for the world's children.

8. The Executive Director then addressed the meeting, expressing his anticipation of especially close co-operation between the secretariat, the Chairman and the Executive Board in the extraordinary tasks and opportunities facing the organisation. Referring briefly to the current situation between Iraq and Kuwait, he reported that UNICEF had provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for such relief supplies as drugs, shelter, bedding, water and sanitation equipment and milk and had helped to establish a camp near Madaba in Jordan where over 5,000 women and children were being sheltered. The Executive Director noted that a multi-million dollar UNICEF appeal was to be issued later during the week as part of the United Nations relief effort.

9. Turning to preparations for the World Summit, the Executive Director reported that some 75 heads of State or Government had informed the secretariat that they would attend and that further acceptances were expected. Because of the remarkable breadth and depth of preparations for the Summit (described in document E/ICEF/1990/16 and Corr.1), important benefits to children had already been generated. Of particular note were the expeditious entering into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 10 months after its endorsement by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 and the additional boost given in many countries to the final drive towards the achievement of universal child immunization by the end of the year.

10. Acknowledging the Planning Committee - in which over one third of the member countries of the Executive Board participated - for its extensive work in producing the draft Declaration and Plan of Action, the Executive Director explained that the documents would reinforce powerfully the development goals and strategies for children in the 1990s that the Executive Board had approved at its April 1990 session (see documents E/ICEF/1990/L.5 and E/ICEF/1990/CRP.2, as well as decision 1990/2 (E/ICEF/1990/13)).

11. The Executive Director broadly described the draft Declaration as seeking support for the Plan of Action from the United Nations system, regional and other international bodies, national Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

12. The Plan of Action was intended as an implementation guide for concerted national action and international co-operation towards the goals for the survival, protection and development of children by the year 2000. The document clearly stipulated progress for children, not only as a key goal of national development, but also as an integral part of the international development strategy for a fourth United Nations development decade. The Plan of Action set out in detail the follow-up and monitoring process. It mandated close collaboration between UNICEF and other relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs in analysing the efforts of countries and the international community in support of the goals for the 1990s. It also provided for a periodic review by the governing bodies of specialized agencies and United Nations organizations of the implementation of goals contained in the documents, and called for a mid-decade review of the progress achieved.

13. Referring to the extraordinary level of attendance expected at the Summit - double that informally projected at the April Board session - the Executive Director explained that the budgetary proposal currently before the Board to raise the ceiling for the Summit meeting from $1,500,000 to $2,994,762 was necessitated by the increased services and facilities the United Nations would need to provide in accommodating the Summit. The proposed increase for mobilization activities from $2,000,000 to $2,139,683 reflected a greater demand for mobilization materials than had initially been projected.

14. The Executive Director pointed to successful Summit-related mobilization activities in Sierra Leone and Ecuador as two further examples of efforts that also helped to accelerate both the work of UNICEF and overall progress for children. The Executive Director stressed that the Summit would generate follow-up actions that would reinforce the rising international tide that was already turning for children. The consensus that childrens' well-being was a cornerstone of people-centred development was exemplified by commitments expressed in such forums as the World Conference on Education for All held at Jomtien, Thailand, in March 1990 and the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy, as well as by agencies such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

15. Expressing appreciation and pride at the efforts of the UNICEF Executive Board and secretariat in ensuring the success of the World Summit for Children, the Executive Director concluded by asserting that history would be grateful for the energy and creativity of the initiating heads of State and Government, their personal representatives and the Planning Committee that made the unprecedented meeting a reality.

16. The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and Co-Chairman of the Summit Planning Committee then addressed the meeting, commending the progress made in Summit arrangements. He noted the commitment of such a large

number of heads of State or Government to attend the Summit, the advanced stage of the draft Declaration and Plan of Action and the finalising and implementation of format arrangements. The unprecedented round-table arrangement in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, the Permanent Representative said, would ensure that all Summit delegations would sit face-to-face as equals. He thanked countries for their generous contributions, which had exceeded the original funding target by more than one third, and requested that contributors re-evaluate their pledges, given the increase in attendance. The Permanent Representative stressed the initiators' determination that the revised budget submission would be financed, like the original budget, solely through voluntary contributions and concluded by congratulating Governments that had contributed to the success of the Summit by ratifying rapidly the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

17. The representative of the Minister of Health of Mali and Chairman of the Summit Format Working Group then summarized the revised schedule of the World Summit for Children and related events (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.35). He said that an informal dinner would be held on 29 September 1990 for heads of State or Government. The Secretary-General would formally open the Summit on 30 September and selected heads of State or Government would make statements on the situation of children from the perspectives of both developed and developing countries. Four Summit themes - ensuring child survival, the protection of children, enhancing child development and implementation and follow-up of the Declaration and Plan of Action - would form the basis for Summit discussions. The Summit would conclude with the signing of the Declaration by heads of State or Government, witnessed by children, and the presentation of the signed Declaration to the children.

18. The personal representative to the Planning Committee of the Prime Minister of Sweden and Chairman of the Summit Working Group on the Declaration and Plan of Action then addressed the meeting. He stressed that the success of the Summit would be measured not by the number of heads of State or Government attending, nor by the number of speeches made, but by the decisions reached, the commitments made and the concrete actions taken by Governments to ensure the survival, protection and development of children. He described the Summit as a "no-nonsense" one that would deal with matters of substance and keep protocol and ceremonies to a minimum. In brief summation, he said that the draft Declaration presented the challenge - the dangers and sufferings that many children faced daily - and the opportunities political leaders had to meet the challenge. In the section entitled "the commitment", the Declaration set out a 10-point programme that leaders could promise to undertake on behalf of children. The Plan of Action, he added, presented more detailed and specific actions related to the 10 points as a guide for both national Governments and international organizations.

19. The Chairman of the Executive Board expressed appreciation for the comprehensive presentations of the speakers and for the dedicated work of the Planning Committee and the two Working Groups in preparing for the Summit and then opened the floor for general debate.

B. Summit preparations and the draft Declaration and Plan of Action

20. Delegations expressed general satisfaction with the preparations for the World Summit for Children and with the draft Declaration and Plan of Action, with a number of delegations praising the quality of the documentation. Delegations congratulated the initiators, the Executive Director, the secretariat and all UNICEF staff and members of the Working Groups and Planning Committee for their efforts in organizing what they called the historic and momentous event of the Summit.

21. One delegation pointed to the enumeration of problems in the Declaration as a clear strength of the document and hoped that détente would liberate resources with which the problems could be addressed. Another delegation referred to the Plan of Action as a gauntlet thrown down on behalf of children, which the nations of the world would hopefully take up. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the sections of the Declaration and Plan of Action dealing with the plight of children in especially difficult circumstances, children affected by armed conflict, foreign occupation, the violence of the drug trade, drug abuse and racism and apartheid and expressed the hope that those sections would receive prominence in the Summit debate. A few delegations suggested that the section on children in especially difficult circumstances could be further strengthened, especially as it dealt with children affected by apartheid, armed conflict and racism. A number of delegations also underscored the importance of the section on the alleviation of poverty and the revitalization of economic growth because of the enormous influence those factors have on the well-being of children and women.

22. The Summit was generally viewed as a key instrument for mobilization and an important catalyst for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A number of delegations said that their Governments had already signed and ratified the Convention or intended to ratify it in the near future. One delegation stated that the question of ratification of the Convention was a complex one for his Government, but that his Government supported many of the provisions of the Convention and was carefully considering the issue.

23. Several delegations stressed the importance of the sections of the Plan of Action regarding monitoring and follow-up and the important task UNICEF had in that regard. One delegation expressed the interest of his Government in knowing whether and how, beyond the formal documentation of Summit proceedings, the secretariat intended to retain the substance of the debate and discussions at the Summit (see para. 30 below for the response). While reserving their detailed comments for the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance (see the annex to the present document), several delegations registered their concern that the cost of the Summit be kept as low as possible. A number of delegations announced the intentions of their Heads of State or Government to attend the World Summit for Children and three delegations announced financial contributions.

C. Specific changes proposed for the draft Declaration and Plan of Action

24. Seven of the 27 countries, and two observer delegations, proposed specific changes to be considered by the Planning Committee in its work in finalizing the draft Declaration and Plan of Action. Two other delegations stated that they would give their suggestions directly to the Planning Committee at a later date.

25. One delegation suggested that the Declaration include a reference to the role of fathers in child development and that the words "and be educated to become good citizens of their country of residence" be added to the penultimate sentence of paragraph 15 of the Declaration. An observer delegation proposed adding the clause "with respect for cultural, religious and social traditions" to the end of the second sentence of paragraph 6 of the draft Plan of Action and revising the final sentence of paragraph 17 of the draft Plan to read: "There is added benefit of promoting maternal and child health programmes and responsible planning of the frequency of birth together, so that, acting synergistically, these efforts help accelerate the reduction of both mortality and fertility rates". The delegation explained that the revision deleted a reference to population stabilization because demographic concerns were not the primary focus of the Summit nor of the Declaration and Plan.

26. Another delegation expressed the strong belief of his Government that references to debt in the Declaration and Plan of Action should use the consensus language on economic issues as agreed to at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly on international economic co-operation. The delegation also proposed that the major goals listed in the Plan be included in the Declaration as well, since the Declaration would unquestionably be a principal focus of public and media interest and attention. Stressing the importance of follow-up, the delegation suggested that provision for follow-up actions by all United Nations and specialized agencies be clearly spelled out in the Plan.

27. One delegation proposed that reference be made to the ratification and/or application of other relevant international laws and conventions pertaining to children and their rights in paragraphs 8 and 20 of the draft Declaration which referred to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The delegation further suggested that paragraph 20 (7) of the Declaration include reference to children as the victims of "racism and xenophobia" and that the Plan of Action include detailed proposals for stronger international action to deal with issues such as custody disputes, kidnapping, adoption and the reunification of families.

28. Two delegations urged that the draft texts be improved by the inclusion of references to family planning services and information. Another delegation proposed that the first part of the first sentence of paragraph 8 of the draft Declaration read: "Together, our nations have the knowledge and the means ..." and that the words "and world Zionism" be added after the word apartheid in paragraph 4 of the Declaration to encompass the plight of Palestinian children in Israeli-occupied territories. Another delegation felt that reference should be made in paragraph 20 (6) of the Declaration to the increasing numbers of youth offenders, delinquents and abandoned children and that the opening ceremony of the

Summit should incorporate one minute of silent prayer or meditation. An observer delegation expressed a desire to see a clear commitment to the proven strategies of primary health care and basic education in both the Declaration and the Plan of Action, and proposed that in both documents children in especially difficult circumstances be referred to as specifically as possible, for instance as displaced children, those deprived of liberty, sexually abused children and children exploited commercially, thus facilitating more precise targetting of interventions.

D. Concluding responses

29. The Chairman of the Summit Working Group on the Declaration and the Plan of Action thanked Executive Board members for their general endorsement of the draft Declaration and Plan of Action, saying that he had noted their comments and changes and would faithfully present them to the Planning Committee when it met on 12 September. The representative of the Chairman of the Summit Format Working Group also thanked the meeting for a fruitful and interesting debate and the endorsement expressed for the format of the Summit.

30. The Executive Director then responded to a question raised in plenary about arrangements for recording and retaining the exchanges and discussions during the working Summit, noting that both written and televised records would be kept and that it was hoped that written statements would be made available by each Head of State or Government. Saying that it was anticipated that a brief summary of the Summit would be published, the Executive Director referred all those interested in further details to materials that had been distributed earlier in the week on the subject.

31. In response to a further question raised in plenary meeting regarding the role of UNICEF in the follow-up to the Summit, the Executive Director referred to paragraph 35 (e) of the draft Plan of Action, in which UNICEF was clearly requested to prepare, in close collaboration with relevant specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, an analysis of the actions taken by countries and the international community in support of the child-related development goals for the 1990s. The Executive Director reiterated the commitment of UNICEF to working closely with United Nations agencies and bilateral partners, particularly those giving priority to attaining the goals for children by the year 2000, and stressed that the organization would strive to strengthen district-level programmes and the global monitoring process. The Executive Director also hoped that the experience the organization had gained from the campaigns to reduce under-five child mortality and to encourage the use of oral rehydration therapy would be of value to the world community and promised further discussion on the subject at a later date.

32. The Executive Director then commended to delegations "Children and Development in the 1990s: a UNICEF sourcebook", which had been distributed during the meeting, as providing valuable background material on issues and topics set forth in the draft Declaration and Plan of Action, along with suggestions for dealing with the problems and strategies to reach the goals.

E. Other business

33. The Executive Board adopted by consensus a draft proposal in which, recalling decision 1990/7 of the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1990/13), it requested the Executive Director to collaborate with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on a report on family planning to be submitted to the Executive Board at its regular session in 1992 (see chap. III, decision 1990/36).

34. An observer delegation referred to paragraphs 22-25 of the draft Plan of Action, which describe the protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and during armed conflict and drew the meeting's attention to the particular plight of Iraqi children. Because of the economic boycott, children were being subjected to starvation and deprived of medicines in contravention of United Nations resolutions and Security Council resolution 661 (1990), which specifically exempted medical and food supplies from the boycott. The delegation expressed the hope that the Declaration and Plan of Action would not be mere papers, but instead a vital plan to be implemented to protect children from the inhumanitarian siege and that UNICEF would seek every possible means to protect the children of Iraq. Another observer delegation responded that the people and children of Kuwait were suffering severe hardships because of the lack of plasma, medical equipment and medicines and facing starvation. The delegation contended that concern for children should include concern for the children and people of Kuwait, who were resisting occupation.

35. Noting that the special session of the Board had been called specifically to discuss preparations for the World Summit, the Executive Director advised that such statements as had just been made were outside the subject matter both of the special session of the Board in particular and of UNICEF in general.

36. Another delegation addressed the topic, stating that the actions taken were within the parameters of Security Council resolutions and could be reversed immediately if occupying forces were withdrawn. One delegation concurred with the statement.

37. The Chairman of the Executive Board noted that the unfortunate circumstances raised in the exchange should serve to make everyone work harder for children.

F. Concluding remarks

38. The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the creativity, support and hard work of the initiators, the Executive Board, NGOs and the UNICEF secretariat, who had all helped to transform a dream into reality in the nine months since the Board had endorsed the idea of the World Summit for Children (see decision 1989/31, E/ICEF/1989/17). He thanked the Governments of Brazil, the Philippines and Uganda for pledging contributions made at the special session and welcomed suggestions that countries which had already contributed might make further pledges. He noted that $100,000 had been raised from countries not planning to attend the Summit, including a number of least developed countries. The Executive Director described the Summit as a means, not an end, a part of the evolving process of putting the

stated priorities of UNICEF into practical effect, and said that the draft Declaration and Plan of Action would provide a framework for the decade to come.

39. The Chairman, thanking Board members for their constructive work, said that she was confident that the Summit would be a success and would make a significant contribution towards the process of development.

III. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 1990 SPECIAL SESSION

40. At its 1990 special session, on 6 and 7 September 1990, the Executive Board adopted the following decisions:

1990/35. Revised budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Adopts the following resolutions contained in document E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16, as amended:

Resolution A

Revised budget estimates for the Summit meeting

The Executive Board

1. Approves the budget estimates for the World Summit for Children for 1990 as follows:

		(United States dollars)
Category 1:	Staff costs	357 420
Category 2:	Operating costs	2 637 342
Grand total		2 994 762

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to administer in the most efficient and effective manner the provisions under each of the categories 1 and 2, and to transfer funds between allotment accounts as required;

3. Further authorizes the Executive Director to finance the budget from the special account and, until such funds are received, to pay advance expenditures from UNICEF general resources in the receivable account up to the limits of the approved budget.

Resolution B

Revised budget estimates for mobilization activities related to the World Summit for Children

The Executive Board

1. Approves the budget estimates for mobilization activities related to the World Summit for Children for 1990 as follows:

		(United States dollars)
Category 1:	Staff costs	504 625
Category 2:	Operating costs	1 635 058
Grand total		2 139 683

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to administer in the most efficient and effective manner the provisions under each of the categories 1 and 2, and to transfer funds between allotment accounts as required;

3. Further authorizes the Executive Director to finance the budget from the special account and, until such funds are received, to pay advance expenditures from UNICEF general resources in the receivable account up to the limits of the approved budget.

Resolution C

Authorization for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures

The Executive Board,

Mindful that the World Summit for Children is an event of a non-recurring nature of extraordinary significance in which there is a possibility of unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures,

1. Recognizes the need to establish procedures to be followed by the Executive Director in the event of unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures exceeding the approved budget for the Summit meeting;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director, with the prior review of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to enter into commitments up to the limit of total confirmed and anticipated contributions based on the expression of intent of contributors;

3. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that all unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures are financed from the special account established for the Summit;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to provide a detailed report specifically on any additional expenditures which are in excess of the approved budget level for review by the Executive Board at its next regular session.

1990/36. Family planning

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1990/7 on family planning,

Noting decision 90/35 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in which, inter alia, it requested the United Nations Population Fund to take the necessary steps to initiate the preparation, based on specific country studies, of a joint report on collaborative programme activities with the United Nations Children's Fund and - as far as possible - other organizations, notably the World Health Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to submit the report to the Governing Council, at its thirty-ninth session,

Requests the Executive Director to collaborate with the United Nations Population Fund in the preparation of this report and to submit it to the Executive Board at its regular session in 1992.

Annex

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE ON ITS MEETINGS HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 1990

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. On 6 and 7 September 1990, the Committee on Administration and Finance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held three meetings, with Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) as Chairman.

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in the annex to document E/ICEF/1990/15. Observations and inquiries were made by delegations on each agenda item, after which the secretariat provided clarifications and answers.

II. REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN AND SUMMIT-RELATED MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES

3. The Committee considered the Revised budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16).

4. In her opening statement, the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, explained that the unprecedented response to the call for the World Summit for Children had necessitated a review and subsequent revision of the revised budget estimates that had been approved by the Executive Board at its 1990 regular session in April (decision 1990/24, E/ICEF/1990/13). Increases in the meeting budget reflected primarily extra requirements in support costs to cover additional reimbursements to the United Nations, while increases in the mobilization activities budget were to cover the additional cost of publication materials. It was stressed that both budgets would be financed from extrabudgetary resources and that there were no other changes in operational costs or any additional staffing costs. It was noted that draft resolution C was designed to respond to any unforeseen costs over and above the revised budgets.

5. The secretariat had ongoing consultations with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and took into account its comments and advice in preparing the revised draft resolutions. However, the secretariat noted with regret that ACABQ had been unable to consider or report on the revised budget estimates in time for the special session.

6. UNICEF was congratulated on its efforts in preparing the Summit, especially in view of its importance and magnitude. However, although delegations voiced strong support for the aims of the Summit, many of them expressed concern about the sharp increase in the budget estimates in general. They were particularly concerned that a costly meeting might invite criticism and requested that savings be found in the budget. The secretariat shared the concerns of the Committee and assured it that it had and would continue to ensure that cost savings would be effected wherever possible.

7. A number of delegations expressed their dissatisfaction at having received the revised budget document too late to review it adequately in time for the meeting. The secretariat explained the difficult time-frame involved and noted that the letter from the United Nations containing its latest cost estimates for the Summit meeting had been received on 16 August 1990, after which the secretariat had consulted the ACABQ secretariat. Following those consultations, the revised budget document had been prepared and the complete budget document transmitted to the Summit initiators. The secretariat further explained that only after that sequence of events had been completed could an advance copy of the final version of the revised budget estimates be sent to ACABQ and the permanent missions, which was done on 28 August.

8. Several delegations expressed their regret that ACABQ had been unable to review and report to the Committee on Administration and Finance on the revised budget estimates in accordance with established practice. The importance of that review was noted, especially in view of draft resolution C, as well as of the previous comments of ACABQ on the past budget proposals. The secretariat responded that it too would have welcomed the comments of ACABQ, but, as stated in the letter from the ACABQ Chairman to the Executive Director, the late receipt of the document had not permitted it to be considered by them through correspondence, nor had it been possible for them to consider and report on the matter in time for the special session of the Board. One delegation suggested that ACABQ should be invited to comment on the revised budget document at a later date, while another delegation would have preferred to take no action and maintain the previously established budget ceiling. The secretariat emphasised that the ACABQ secretariat had been kept informed of all developments with regard to the Summit budget and its guidance had been sought on the wording of the draft resolutions.

9. Inquiries were made about the appearance of new line items in the annex to the budget document, specifically the appearance of expenditures for the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. The UNICEF secretariat explained that new line items had been included in the budget document to increase the clarity and transparency where increases had occurred. It was further explained that some of the new line items had been included in other lines in the original budget estimates, while others reflected new areas of expenditure not foreseen at the time the original estimates had been prepared. With regard to the proposed expenditures for the Department of Public Information, the secretariat explained that although some of the activity had been grouped with the estimates for the Office of General Services in the original budget, costs had increased dramatically as the number of journalists expected to attend the meeting had increased and owing to the cost of the various technical equipment that would be needed to accommodate the world media. The secretariat stressed that all of the costs of the Department of Public Information included in the Summit meeting budget were specifically to support the large number of journalists and that none of the activity was related to mobilisation activities.

10. One delegation proposed, and several other delegations concurred, that the major television networks should be charged for using the United Nations feed during the Summit. Three delegations from developing countries disagreed with that proposal on the grounds that the media in developing countries were not always

profit-making enterprises and could not afford to pay for media services. The secretariat pointed out that although it was not the usual practice for the United Nations to charge the media for services provided, perhaps the major profit-making television networks could be approached by the UNICEF fund-raising group to help offset the costs of the Summit.

11. During the discussion on the reconfiguration of the Economic and Social Council chamber to accommodate a round-table discussion, a number of delegations criticized UNICEF for initiating the renovation without prior Board approval, one of whom added that the renovation had no real relation to participation at the Summit meeting. The secretariat indicated that at a meeting at Ottawa earlier in the year, the Planning Committee had expressed a strong view that all of the heads of State and Government should be seated as equals around the same table and that the work on the Economic and Social Council chamber was being done to accommodate that request. Since the cost had not been included when UNICEF received the United Nations estimates, it appeared in the revised budget estimates as originating from the Summit secretariat. One delegation asked if the request had been made by the Planning Committee during its formal deliberations, and that was confirmed by the secretariat.

12. Two delegations requested the secretariat to explain why, although the number of information kits being produced had increased, the unit cost of the information kits had also increased when there should have been economies of scale. The secretariat explained that the unit costs had increased because the original budgets had been prepared at the concept stage when much smaller publications with different formats had been planned and because overtime had had to be paid to printers to meet revised deadlines and have the kits available at several significant meetings. The secretariat also indicated that paper costs had increased since the date of the original budget.

13. One delegation asked why there had not been an increase in staff costs in the revised meeting budget, although the size of the meeting had increased. The secretariat responded that the additional work required to support the Summit was being performed by existing Summit secretariat staff working long hours. The secretariat added that during the Summit weekend, a large number of UNICEF and outside volunteers would be working for the Summit free of charge.

14. One delegation queried and objected to the charge included in the budget estimates for the loss of revenue at the United Nations. The secretariat explained that since the United Nations was usually open to the public on weekends, the estimates included the revenue that would be lost since, for security reasons, access to the United Nations building would be restricted during the Summit. As to the amount of the charge, the secretariat did not feel that it was in a position to challenge the basis of the estimate from the United Nations Comptroller's Office for the item and was prepared to accept the charge.

15. All delegations addressing the issue stated emphatically that the entire cost of the revised budgets must be funded from extrabudgetary resources to ensure that the cost of the Summit did not have a negative effect on programmes. The secretariat assured the Committee that it remained committed to the position that

the costs of the Summit meeting and related mobilization activities would be funded from extrabudgetary resources and that UNICEF fund-raising efforts were continuing to accomplish that.

16. One delegation queried whether projected revenue could cover the increased expenditure, while another delegation asked who UNICEF planned to approach to raise the additional funds required to pay for the increased budgets. Yet another delegation observed that although 76 countries had announced their intention to attend the Summit, only 46 countries had announced their pledge or contributed to the meeting. The secretariat added that contributions had also been received from countries whose heads of State or Government were unable to attend the meeting and encouraged all countries to announce their contributions at the earliest opportunity.

17. Delegations expressed serious reservations about draft resolution C in the revised budget document, which aimed to provide a means of approving additional expenditures for the Summit meeting should the need arise. In fact, many delegations suggested that the draft resolution, which provided for unlimited spending authority without prior Board approval, amounted to giving the UNICEF Executive Director a "blank cheque". Therefore, they could not support the draft resolution and suggested that it be deleted. However, one delegation expressed the view that proper budgetary procedures must allow for both foreseen and unforeseen expenditures, and since the Summit was a unique, one-time event, resolution C was acceptable.

18. The secretariat responded that draft resolution C was never intended to be a "blank cheque" and that it had been drafted with the advice of the ACABQ secretariat as a means of covering an unforeseen situation that required additional expenditures beyond the revised budget estimates. The secretariat did, however, indicate that it was open to suggestions from the Committee on amendments to the draft resolution to make it more effective.

19. Delegations also commented on the 20 per cent contingency included in the cost estimates from the United Nations. Some delegations felt that the contingency appeared high and should be sufficient to cover the unforeseen expenditures mentioned in draft resolution C. However, the secretariat pointed out that the 20 per cent contingency applied only to the cost estimates received for those activities being carried out by the United Nations and did not apply to the Summit budget as a whole. The secretariat did not feel that the contingency was a suitable solution to the situation draft resolution C was designed to cover.

20. Since it was generally recognized that there was a need for a mechanism to respond to unforeseen circumstances that was comprehensive and rigorous in budgetary and financial terms, amendments to draft resolution C were welcomed by the Chairman. One delegation proposed alternative language to draft resolution C that emphasized that the additional expenditures could only be requested for "unforeseen and extraordinary" expenditures. Another delegation suggested that the amount of expenditure that could be approved be limited to the amount of confirmed pledges or contributions received for the Summit. The secretariat indicated that that would not be feasible since authorization to commit to the additional

expenditure would have to occur before or during the Summit meeting and a large number of pledges and contributions are not expected until after the Summit meeting. Several other amendments were proposed, and after a lengthy and vigorous debate, consensus was reached on an amended resolution that further emphasized that any unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures were to be funded from the special account established for the Summit (see chap. III, decision 1990/35, for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board).